

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071701

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071701

FOL REPEAT OF LUANDA 333 TO SECSTATE INFO KINSHASA LISBON
LUSAKA PRETORIA JOHANNESBURG LOURENCO MARGUES CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM LONDON CINCLANT FOR POLAD CINCEUR FOR POLAD
MARCH 28

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0333

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV AO

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF MARCH 28 AGREEMENT

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: LUANDA 0331

1. THE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON MARCH 28 BY THE LIBERATION GROUPS
AND THE PORTUGUESE CONTAINS TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS: THE
DISARMING OF CIVILIANS; AND THE EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL FROM LUANDA OF
"EXCESS" LIBERATION GROUP TROOPS. FNLA INISTED ON THE DISARMING OF
CIVILIANS AND THE MPLA WAS ADAMANT ABOUT THE REMOVAL FROM LUANDA
OF FNLA'S LARGE MILITARY FORCE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO DISARMING CIVILIANS, FNLA HAS LONG SOUGHT
TO DISARM THE MPLA VEHICLE IN THE GHETTOES KNOWN AS PODER POPULAR
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PAGE 02 STATE 071701

OR PEOPLES POWER. ACCORDING TO AN FNLA SOURCE THE MIXED

MILITARY FORCES WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISARMING. OUR SOURCE SAID THIS IS THE HEART OF THE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT FNLA HOPED DISARMING OPERATIONS COULD GET UNDERWAY WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. HE WAS NOT SURE, HOWEVER, THAT THE MEASURE WOULD BE FULLY COMPLIED WITH. A MILITARY SOURCE TOLD US THAT MPLA DOES NOT KNOW TO WHOM WEAPONS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED AND THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISION.

3. MPLA WHICH INSISTED UPON THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM LUANDA, WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT A DELAY UNTIL, ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT "THE SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL." THUS, THE DISARMAMENT MUST COME BEFORE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES. FNLA SCORED A MAJOR POINT HERE.

4. ARTICLE 1(D) OF THE AGREEMENT, WHICH SPEAKS OF THE INTEGRATION OF 500 MEN FROM EACH LIBERATION MOVEMENT INTO THE MIXED MILITARY FORCES WITHIN EIGHT DAYS, IS A KEY ELEMENT. EACH MOVEMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF FIVE HUNDRED TROOPS IN LUANDA. THIS DOES NOT AFFECT THAT ARTICLE OF THE ALVOR AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF 500 LIBERATION TROOPS EACH MONTH UNTIL MAY AND 15,000 THEREAFTER; IT MERELY MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE THAN 1,500 LIBERATION TROOPS IN LUANDA. ARTICLE 1(C) FOLLOWS FROM 1(D), AS IT SPEAKS OF THE REMOVAL FROM LUANDA OF EXCESS TROOPS WHEN NORMALCY HAS RETURNED.

5. A SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TENSE AND DIFFICULT, BUT THAT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THEY WENT ALONG FAIRLY SMOOTHLY. IT REPRESENTS ONLY A PATCH JOB THAT MAY NOT HOLD TOGETHER VERY LONG, BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT BOTH SIDES MADE AN EFFORT TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT. THE NEXT TIME FNLA AND MPLA GO AT IT, IT WILL BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO STOP THE FIGHTING.
KILLPRAN UNQTE KISSINGER

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